

- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the time by which the quota cuts are expected to be restored; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to increase the quota of food-grains and edible oils for the State during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (f) Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of Central Government and State Governments/UT Administrations. Central Government procures and distributes in bulk to States/UTs. State Governments allocate foodgrains within the state on the basis of priorities fixed by them. The allocation of foodgrains under the TPDS is made on the basis of average annual lifting for the last 10 years taking into account the requirements of BPL population. Uttar Pradesh has been allocated more foodgrains than its average annual lifting in view of the large BPL population in the State. The allocation is higher than the offtake in 1996-97 which, in turn, was the highest in recent years. The State Government has been advised to ensure availability of foodgrains in food deficit areas.

The quota of the imported Palmolein is given to the States on the basis of their demand. Government of Uttar Pradesh has not made any demand in the last few years. Therefore, the question of increasing the quota of edible oil to U.P. does not arise. The Central Government has not finalised the import programme for 1997-98.

[English]

Pre-Examination Coaching to SC/ST Students

959. SHRI MUNNI LAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any policy to establish coaching institutes for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates for preparation of competitive examinations for different categories of All India Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of successful candidates come out from such institutes in different categories of services during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Under this scheme free coaching is provided to SC/ST students through Pre-Examination Training Centres to enable them to compete successfully in the competitive examinations conducted by UPSC, State Public Service Commission, Public Sector Undertaking and other recruiting bodies. Central Assistance is provided on a matching basis of 50 : 50 to the States over and above their committed liability and on 100% basis in case of U.Ts. Universities and Pvt. Coaching institutes.

(c) The information is being collected from the concerned agencies.

Purulia Arms Dropping Case

960. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one foreign agency had alerted the Government about the possibility of arms dropping operation in West Bengal-Bihar border areas specially at Purulia;

(b) if so, the reasons for not alerting the concerned security agencies;

(c) the action initiated by the Government for such negligence;

(d) whether the Government have taken action on the recommendations of the Committee on Government Assurances on Purulia Arms Dropping Case; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. the R&AW had obtained advance information about the possibility of arms being unloaded by a small plane after landing at an abandoned airfield in Dhanbad area of Bihar for an insurgent group of that area. This information was conveyed to another intelligence agency by R&AW. The Government of Bihar was accordingly sensitised by the concerned intelligence agency.

(c) The Central Bureau of Investigation which has been entrusted with the investigation of this case has submitted reports highlighting certain administrative lapses on the part of different agencies that came to light during the investigation. The concerned authorities have been apprised of the reports of the CBI for appropriate action.